the British coast. And the Madras Government have also called for criticisms on the project. But they have not yet passed any final orders and pending that we cannot say whether there will be a line.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The Cranganur line entirely depends on the other?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—So I think it is premature to consider the resolution now and so I do not move this resolution at this stage.

Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—"*While appreciating whole-heartedly the change in the mentality of the Government as evidenced by the proposals to construct and maintain a tramway line along the whole length of Cranganur in continuation of the tramway line between Ponnani and Cranganur, this Council recommends to the Government to kindly extend the proposed line till the southern limits of Vypeen for affording additional facility for the development of trade and commerce in the land*".

25. Hand spinning as Cottage Industry.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I move the resolution which runs thus: "This Council recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to organise hand-spinning as a cottage industry in selected areas in the State." Hand-spinning had been the subject of discussion both in this Council and outside several times. I do not therefore, propose to go into a detailed discussion of it to-day. There are certain facts which are either admitted or which will not be seriously disputed. I shall briefly state them. About 75% of our people are dependent upon agriculture. Their main occupation does not take up more than 6 months in the year. They very badly need a secondary occupation during the non-crop seasons. We have in India an in exhaustible supply of man power which is running to utter waste. The cultivators who form the back-bone of the country are ignorant and poor. Most of them are in the words of Mr. Garrat born in debt, live in debt and die in debt.

Under these circumstances, I submit that it is the duty of the Government to find out suitable subsidiary occupations for these poor cultivators and organise and popularise them among them so that they may enable them to supplement their agricultural income. What are those industries is the question that we have next to consider. It will not be possible to have a ready made industry for all people and for all places and conditions. The selection will largely depend upon the local

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

conditions and requirements. But there is one industry which can be called the universal Cottage Industry and that is Hand-spinning. It has so many advantages over other cottage industries that it has been often called the prince of cottage industries.

Before I briefly touch upon its advantages, let me say one or to things which will dispel from the minds of certain sections of the public certain wrong notions about it. One is that hand spinning is never recommended as a full time occupation. People say that it is uneconomic, because they are under the impression that this is recommended as a full time occupation and the income from it will be hardly sufficient to make a decent living. Hand-spinning is recommended only as a leisure time occupation. The second important thing that I wish to emphasise in this connection is that it never seeks to displace any other industry which is more remunerative than this. The modest promise it makes is 3 pies for one hour's work. If therefore there is any other industry which is more remunerative than hand-spinning by all means take to that industry. For instance coir making is a very useful and thriving industry in the southern Taluks especially the sea-coasts. I am told that a man or woman can easily make 2 annas a day. Let them do that work. Hand-spinniug cannot promise more.

My position, therefore, is that there are several places in our State especially the central and northern Taluks where the agricultural population spend more than half of the year in idleness. They are carrying on a very miserable existence during these periods. The purport of my resolution is to request the Government to select some such areas and organise hand-spinning there and enable the poor cultivators to usefully employ their leisure hours and supplement their income. The advantages of spinning are many. It does not require any capital. It supplies an article of necessity. We need not bother ourselves about a market for the unfinished product. It can be easily learned. Both young and old alike can take part in it.

The next question is how the Government can organise it. There are the examples of Mysore and Baroda. Mysore is the pioneer in this respect. It appears that it conducted a survey first. Then got the services of an expert from the All India Spinners' Association, appointed him as special organiser, allotted Rs. 3,500 for the expenses and opened the Badanaval spinning centre. Here, they distributed a cheap variety of charkas, gave instructions in the growing, ginning, carding and other processes. Tney also made arrangements for the weaving

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of the yarn produced in the centre and the marketting of the finished product.

Here is the concluding portion of the first year's report. It will speak for itself. I have only to add that the condtions existing here are more or less the same.

Sir, you will please permit me to read a few sentences from the report of Mr. S. G. Púјari, Special Organiser, Badanval Spinning Centre, whom the Mysore Government appointed. He submitted a report to the Government after one year. He states there:—

"It is my considered opinion that the revival of this Cottage Industry in this part of the Province will—

(a) enable the agriculturist to convert his raw materials to as near a degree of finished goods as he can without extra expenditure and thus add to his income

(b) have an opportunity to get his own cloth made within the least possible charge and save his money on cloth;

(c) offer an opportunity to the needy, the aged, the infirm, the crippled, the blind and the Paradanishm at her very door, of converting all idle hours into active work and thus enable her to keep the wolf from the door;

(d) find work for Adi-Karnatakas in their own village and thus prevent migration as also lighten pressure on the agricultural land.

I would, therefore, strongly recommend that the centre should be developed to its utmost capacity. If you will kindly agree with this view of mine, I shall submit further scheme and definite proposals."

The above is the concluding portion of the report which he first submitted. The Government acted on that report and continued their work. I shall read a few extacts from the report which they submitted called "Brief summary of the Economic Development work done by the Department of Industries and Commerce since 1926 to end of December 1929". There when they deal with this subject they say. "In the year 1926—27 arrangements were made to manufacture Charkas of the Khadi Prathistan type and also to distribute them all over the State through the agency of Spinning Demonstrators at a reduced price. Ten Spinning Demonstrators were entertained during the year, 8 for work in the Districts and 2 for the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore and these Demonstrators were deputed to the Gandhi Ashram at Pudupalya for training. An all India Khadi Exhibition was held in Bangalore in July 1927 and the Department participated in the same. Due to the propagandistic efforts of these Demonstrators nearly 1,800 Charkas were distributed during the period. In the year 1927—28 the work in the Districts was confined mostly to teaching people how to spin yarn out of cotton and to popularise hand-spinning. The experience gained at Badanval has shown that it is possible to introduce hand-spinning as a regular subsidiary occupation amongst the rural classes in favourable localities. In the year 1928—29 arrangements were made to train these Spinning Demonstrators at Badanval in order that trained staff may be available if the local bodies should desire to start intensive work. Proposals to organise centres on the lines of Badanval at Gundrupet in the Mysore District, at Midigesi in the Tumkur District and at Sarjapur in the Bangalore District, are under consideration.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Work at Badanaval.—By far the most important work carried out by the Department under the auspices of the Economic Conference is the establishment of a Spinning Centre at Badanaval where intensive efforts have been made to test how far hand spinning of cotton can be re-established as a practicable subsidiary occupation amongst our rural population. The practicability of hand spinning as a rural occupation has been the subject of endless discussion within recent years. It is proposed to give a full account here of the results obtained by the Department in this interesting experiment to revive an ancient industry as Government have since directed that the charges on account of the operations at Bhadanaval need not be debited in future to the grants provided by the Economic Conference for experimental schemes and may be met from the allotments to the Department in the State budget."

They give details of the actual work done by giving figures regarding the quantity of work turned out etc. I am afraid to go into such minute details, because the Members may feel it dull and I shall only read one or two other extracts. In matters like this, they also observe after practical experience, that "Government patronage is necessary until the centre is able to manufacture all varieties of cloth demanded by the public. Efforts are being made to satisfy this demand. An official of the centre has recently received training in printing Khadi cloth and printed Khadi for which there is a good demand will soon be produced"

Then as regards capital, they spent about 3,500 rupees in the first year and subsequently they raised it to 15,000 rupees. How it works at the end of 1929 is seen from this following passage.

"The steady increase in the proportion of revenue to expenditure shows that the centre is becoming more and more self-supporting".

That is a very hopeful sign. Even though they had to spend a small amount in the beginning without any corresponding return in profits, subsequently they found that it would become self-supporting. The latest report, that is, the report issued in 1931 states that the progess they had anticipated they were able to achieve. I shall read from the Government review of the Administration Report of the Mysore State which will speak for itself.

"Work at the Badanaval Hand spinning centre is being steadily developed. During the year under review 1500 women were engaged in spinning in their spare hours and supplied, 24,547 lbs. of yarn and earned Rs. 10,739; 56,231 yards of Khadi valued at Rs. 25,000 were woven in the centre. The establishment of the centre was suitably strengthened during the year to cope with the expansion in the volume of its operations and a printing and a dyeing section was added. It is reported that the introduction of a better type of carding machine has resulted in an improvement in the avarage fineness of the yarn A new spinning centre was started at Terkanambi in the Gundalpet Taluk for which the Mysore District Board provided a grant of Rs. 3,500 for initial working capital. Other District Boards have come forward with offers of financial assistance for the opening of similar centres in their areas and those are under consideration."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I have only very little to add to what has been read above. Conditions in Mysore are more or less the same in several parts of Cochin also. I, therefore, request the Government to take up this question and work it out on the lines on which the Mysore Government did it. I might also say that encouraged by the success of the experiment, they are expanding their spheres of activities year by year. The Baroda Government has also begun to start spinning centres on these lines. I think they are also succeeding. Unfortunately I have not got any authenticated report about the working of such centres in Baroda. They have also taken it up in right earnest. It will greatly help to ameliorate the poor economic condition of the cultivators. I, therefore, request that the House may be pleased to support this resolution.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I second it.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—President Sir, when I got the notice of this resolution, I just wondered what exactly was the necessiy of such a resolution. Now after listening to the eloquent speech of Mr. Warrier, I find the necessity for it is very, very small indeed, because, as far as the history of this department goes, we have insisted and have accepted most of the recommendations now made in the body of the resolution. There is only one small difficulty that I wish to place before this House. The only question really is how far the Government should step in to supplant private agency in the matter of organising hand-spinning. I was, before I heard the speech, under the impression that the Member wanted the organisaton of the industry as a primary cottage industry which of course is impossible. Now, what I understand is that what he wants to be done is to encourage hand- spinning so as to be made a secondary cottage industry. Thanks to the efforts of the Hon'ble Member and of those who back up the movement, it is found practically in every home in Cochin the need for Government agency seems to be reduced to an irreducible minimum. What exactly is the form of Government assistance that is required is not known. It could be only under one of two forms. One is in the form of subsidies and the other by way of training. I will take up the second first, because it could be easily disposed of. With regard to the training that is required for hand-spinning more than 129 schools in the State have spinning introduced as a subject of their daily work. So we find that even in this sphere what is possible is being done without compulsion, and I submit to this House that the necessity for compulsion on the part of the State has at any rate rapidly disappeared. With regard to subsidies, this is not the first time that this question

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

is coming before this House. The matter was once referred to the Economic Development Committee and in spite of the most sincere efforts that could be made then, as the request came too late in the year and as we have provided for other items of expenditure, very little money was left. Government sincerely regretted that it came too late, because it would have been in line with the general policy adopted by them to give such encouragement to hand-spinning. The Hon'ble Member himself is aware of the fact.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I do not know in what connection the Hon'ble Member refers.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Some appeal for assistance was made to the Economic Development Committee to organise themselves.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—For weaving, I think. That request was not rejected on account of the lateness of the application.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—For want of funds. Otherwise I stand corrected. The funds were not available, bacause it was too late. That was the point. It was not because Government was not anxious to encourage spinning. In regard to the question of subsidies, even if funds permit us, I put it to the House, whether it would not be insulting to the intelligence of the country to do the thing by Government agency which can be carried on by individual agency. I think we have sufficiently progressed. One can understand, if the movement were in its infancy, the necessity for the intervention of Government and for compulsion. It was in this connection that I referred to the condition of the schools in the earliest stages. Compulsiom was resorted to, but the movement outgrew compulsion at last, and to compel them now would be actual insult.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Not eveywhere. In some places.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Wherever compulsion in regard to teaching of spinning is necessary, it will be resorted to. It will be an error to say that such areas are lagging behind. There are of course such parts of darkness. I do not believe there are many at any rate.

Sir, I am not here to oppose this resolution which is in line with the policy of the Government. Far from it. Nor am I putting it to the House that to spend on this account would be unwise. But I will say that funds are limited at any rate for the time being. When money is available it certainly will be placed at the disposal of the industry as well as at the disposal of other industries. My point is unlike other industries, this has got behind it the love of the country.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— I never pleaded for compulsion. It is far from my mind.

Mr. I. N. Menon.— I stand corrected.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Government should organise it on the lines that the Mysore Government did. It can be done by selecting an area where people have plenty of leisure hours and where they waste their time. Advise them about the economic aspect of it,induce them to take to spinning, give them samples of chief charka, give them instructions as to the growing of cotton, for they can grow their cotton in their own homes, and, I think, the Agricultural Superintendent will bear testimony to this, teach them to spin good yarn.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Propaganda and demonstration.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The only thing we can do is propaganda work. Propaganda work is already there. You have already created an atmosphere.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Yes, Sir, I can speak with a little more experience on these matters. I have been very earnestly at it for the last 8 years. Not much propaganda is necessary in these days. You have to organise it on a scientific and commercial basis. Tell them how to dispose of the yarn they make. What is wrong in that? It is only an experiment. Select a small village, get hold of about 300 persons, demonstrate to them that it can be worked economically as they did in Mysore and then you can leave it there. After four years they found in Mysore that the centre was becoming self-supporting. Just as they cook their own food in their homes, they must be taught to make their own clothes. They must be made to know that they can do it. I am not for giving subsidies on this account. If the amount is given to some they may not use it properly. It can best be spent by the Government itself through an officer who need not be paid much, not more than 20 or 30 rupees. It is not very difficult to get an expert for that amount. It is on this line that I want the Government to do it. Select a particular area and if it is not successful, give it up. The amount that you may have to spend is at the most Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000. On the other hand,the gain is that the centre if successful, willbe an object lesson for the whole state. The other villages will soon follow suit and the national wealth can be increased in this way. The purport of my resolution is to induce the Government to take the necessary steps to organise at least one such centre.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—A word. I want the Government to unequivocally express that it is not disloyal to spin.Such an idea still exists in rural part, I know.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The Educational Department has not done anything.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I have got copies of circulars issued by the Department.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Is that, part of the resolution? Apart from all arguments my point is this. Is it the wish of the Hon-ble Member that over and above doing all these things in and through schools.....

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—My aim is not to do it through schools My aim is not to compel anybody to take to it. It is only to advise the people to utilise their spare hours and organsise this industry on a scientific basis.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon:—Your position will be that the Government should appoint a number of persons, one or two as are necessary to carry on this instructive work. Give instructions in the matter of carding, weaving in rural parts. He must be a popular man. He may be asked to go to a particular village, ask all the villagers to assemble round him, give instructions as to the advantages of spinning.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—We must supply them with all the ncessary instruction and materials.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—He must give instructions as to carding and spinning and make a start. One village is to be atken up as a model farm.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Exactly, Sir. One village is sufficient and if it is found unsuccessful, Government may drop the idea.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Government is really taking an interest and there is nothing wrong in this.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—If the Government is prepared to depute an officer I shall personally see that it works successfully.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Is it necessary to have this machinery of regimentation to carry on a national work like this ?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Yes, Sir, to a certain extent. It is purely an economic proposition. Our people are wasting nine hours and eight hours a day. You give them this work if they cannot get any other work. This will guarantee a daily earning of at least 6 pies, one anna or two annas a day. Two annas a day means a great thing to a poor man. One edangazhi of rice can be purchased with that. This will give food to 2 members in a family.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I ask the question, what is the amount provided in Jail for a man for one day ? I want to know the amount of money provided under jail rules for feeding one man in jail for a day.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Six annas.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—That is for civil prisoners.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—For criminal prisoners? It is not known to the Government, the whole bench together.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We shall get the information if necessary.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Whatever I say seems to have effect of producing more opposition. I don't know whether it is because I don't make myself understood.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You make yourself thoroughly understood.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—What I wish to place before this House is whether it is absolutely necessary, considering the present literacy, the extent of education we have, to have an expert appointed, apart from those teachers who are teaching this in schools. I am not saying this with a view to oppose the resolution. If the Hon'ble Member wishes the scheme to be considered I have only to say I don't see what exactly is needed in this particular connection. If it is the request of the Member to have this considered, I shall place this before the proper body and do what is required. In this connection I wish to submit to this House that the proposal was made to the Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills to have a few acres of land under cotton cultivation, and after consulting experts with regard to its feasibility, (I may be corrected by the Hon'ble Members, or by the Hon'ble mover) we were told thet the cultivation of cotton was not feasible. And therefore they declined the offer.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—The Hon'ble Member for Agriculture will be in a better position to speak. I have myself purchased.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I don't know whether the same subsidiary industry might suit the different localities.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I did not say that.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Is it necessary to have a special expert, apart from what is done in schools to educate the population? If the Hon'ble Member thinks, that the kind of education in spinning is not satisfactory in schools we are prepared to do it on a much better basis. The number of schools that will take to it will increase day by day and it does not require a very great length of time before you can see all the schools doing it. Is it necessary, in view of this, that a special machinery of regimentation should be created? If the Hon'ble Member thinks it is essential, I have absolutely nothing to say, but only to submit that the matter may be placed before the proper authority and advices taken.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Who is the proper body?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The proper body so far as the present system goes, is the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then why don't you say that the matter should be placed before the Economic Development Committee?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Hon'ble Member allow me to be present at the meeting and to represent the case to the Economic Development Committee? If I am not able to satisfy this Committee about the practicability of my scheme I shall very willingly and gladly withdraw it. Allow me an opportunity of explaining to the Members its practical side. If I am unable to satisfy the Committee, well and good I shall leave it there.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—The time of the Economic Development Committee will be wholly at the disposal of the Member if he wants. It is not because that we do not want to hear the advice. We want to see that Government machinery is not introduced where it is not required.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—My position is also the same. I do not want the Government to spend one pie unnecessarily, if it will not be productive of good result. I do not want this for a spectacular purpose or a political purpose. If I am not in a position to satisfy the Economic Development Committee I am prepared to give up the scheme.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—Certainly.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—On that assurance I beg leave to withdraw the resolution.

Deputy President.—If they are satisfied, they may take up.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Can they appoint a man?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— There will be a further question whether the recommendations of the Economic Development Committee will be binding on the Government, because as mentioned by the Hon'ble Member himself, the Government refused the recommendations of the Economic Development Committee on some other allied subject recently.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The question can again be brought forward.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—It stands on a better footing than a resolution. The Government is not bound to carry out a resolution of this House. I am not placing the Hon'ble Member at a disadvantage. Full evidence can be taken and placed at the disposal of the Economic Development Committee. He will be given every opportunity of explaining things to the Economic Development Committee.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I withdraw my resolution Sir.

The resolution was withdrawn with the leave of the House.

26. Retirement of Officers on attaining the 55th year.

As a similar resolution was fully discussed, the following resolution was not moved and it was considered withdrawn.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—*This Council recommends that the rule that an officer should retire on attaining his 55th year from the Government service may be strictly enforced in future.*

27. Overlooking of service to make provision for Depressed Classes.

As the mover was absent, the following resolution was not moved and so it was considered withdrawn.

Mr. Ouseph P. Kundukulam.—*This Council recommends the Government, that the service of Government servants, whether temporary or permanent, should not be overlooked to make provision for the Depressed Classes.*

28. Vellangallur Anchal Office.

Mr. V. Achyutha Menon.—The volume of work done by the Vellangallur branch Anchal Office is found to be not sufficient to raise it to a sub-Anchal Office. So I don't think it worth while to move this resolution now.

Hence the following resolution was considered withdrawn.

Mr. V. Achyuta Menon.—*This Council recommends to the Government the raising of the Vellangallur Branch Anchal Office to a sub-office.*

29. Economic Depression.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—Sir, I beg to move "that in view of the economic depression prevailing throughout the State, this Council recommends to the Government to pass early orders to suspend the collection and realisation of Kuri subscriptions in and out of courts for a period of two years."

Deputy President.—A similar resolution was moved here. Government orders too were passed.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—This was not the issue then.

Deputy President.—The matter was exactly the same. If you want you can say something more.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The question is whether it is in order.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—That is only one aspect of the question.

Deputy President.—Both these points are covered by the motion. The other was a little more general. The order specifically referred to these two points.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly